

Simplicity, Power and Economy



THE Wellington Radio Exhibition has revealed many technical features of interest, not the least being the stabilisation of radio. Last year, the first of the electric receivers were displayed, for it was in this year that the great movement from batteries to a.c. sets took place. Now that it has been established for eighteen months, we are in a position to judge the probable outcome of the change.

In the first place there are no radical changes, not even in the universal adoption of the screen grid, for though this valve is used in almost every radio set, it is not universal. Some of the best sets are not using it in any form, while others are employing it only in the detector stage—this is a development of the past year. There is even a return to the directly-heated 226 type of valve, and one receiver at least uses four of these valves in the radio-frequency stages, a screen-grid detector, and one 226 audio followed by the popular 245.

For a power valve the 245 takes a great deal of surpassing, and it is not surprising that medium-priced sets are using this valve in push-pull in the last stage. The 250 is still used in the more expensive sets. It has a fuller tone and, of course, can handle far greater volume. The 171 has disappeared from all but an occasional kit set.

Standardisation.

IT is interesting to note that most of the manufacturers are stan-

The Impressions of a Technical Visitor to the Show

By "TECHNIQUE"

dardising on one chassis and placing this in various cabinets to suit the pocket of the purchaser. The larger ones are combined with the electric gramophone. These small sets are capable of giving amazing reproduction and compare very well with the more expensive models. Beside these there were others of two, three and four valves, all a.c., which cost only a moderate sum. These were distinctly popular, and the dealers report many inquiries.

The combination of radio and gramophone is a feature of the stabilised models. Every maker is combining these two musical instruments into their larger sets. The smaller ones have facilities for connection to a gramophone, so that the purchaser will need only a pick-up to convert his gramophone into an electrical one. A single switch changes from one to the other, and in some cases cuts off the motor. An interesting combination was one that would play fifteen records without attention, for it automatically changes the records and stops the machine when the magazine is empty. Records of both sizes could be accommodated, and there was ample room for storage, several albums being

provided. In fact this was a feature of many of the combination sets—the albums formed part of the design.

The Tone of the Season's Sets.

THE tone of the sets differed more than one would expect, probably to cater for the tastes of those who would make the selection. In some

Next Week

... is ...

Music Week

the bass was prominent, too much so in the writer's opinion, while in others the treble was accentuated, giving a harsh metallic effect. Some had a canned sound when turned up or a suppressed sound when lowered. But they all found favour in the differing requirements of the visitors. There were, however, some distinctly fine out fits, where realism was indeed present. The colour and perfection achieved by some of these models will take a considerable amount of surpassing. Radio has indeed reached a stage of well-nigh perfection.

Bass Overdone.

AN interesting occurrence convinced the writer that in some sets at least the bass is much overdone. The studio had been broadcasting and it was announced that the station would go over to the Town Hall. When this took place all the sets in the hall should have closed down. One was a little late in doing so and the writer heard the orchestra on the stage coming through a set which he could not see. There was a plethora of bass, but the instruments on the stage were few in number and the bass limited to a cello. Then the set closed down, and so did the bass. It was strangely absent from the actual performance, but the violin which was playing the air was much stronger. The set was never identified for there was a crowd in the hall at the time.

Novelties at the Show.

ONE of the stands had a novel attraction. Describing their models as "the set with the punch," a punching arm moved regularly toward a fan-shaped log of stations received by one listener. The stations were arranged with their appropriate dial settings. There were 100 in all.

Another novel exhibit was a lampshade designed by Mrs. G. G. McQuarrie. With the basic Maori colours, used in an original setting of a Maori pah, the shade was most artistic and attracted great interest. It was true to detail and most realistic. On the

stand there were some particularly fine Maori mats.

The constructor and the battery user were not catered to any extent. Only two stands displayed components, and these were in the form of kit sets or the parts used for standard circuits. There were kits for the Loftin White with even the metal base already drilled. Several assembled kitsets were displayed on one stand and demonstrations were given. It is interesting to note that even the "hams" were using a kitset receiver.

The "Hams" Display.

THE AMATEUR transmitters ("hams") attracted a good deal of attention—it was one of the most interesting stands at the exhibition. There were several transmitters, designed to work on all amateur bands from 10 to 100 meters. One of these was crystal controlled—that of 2Z 2AJ. It was a good outfit and its arrangement made thorough inspection possible. The transmitter of 2BP was used for transmission of messages from the hall, for the "greeting" arrangements that have featured in other centres were made available to the visitors.

It was possible for a visitor to send greetings to a friend in any part of the world. These addresses (for the greetings were standard) were transmitted on low power to another station in Wellington and there dispatched to stations in the other centres. From here the message was phoned or sent to the person to whom they were addressed. In the case of overseas friends the messages would be transmitted when the opportunity of contacting a ham in that country occurred.

The stand was staffed by hams who were ready to answer the questions of those who sought information.

Other Exhibits.

THE Post and Telegraph Department had on view a carrier current telephone apparatus used to provide additional channels over the existing circuits. It is the system of wired wireless, which has become popular overseas. The apparatus is used by the Department for long-distance calls.

The "Radio Record" was represented. For during the latter part of the exhibition the Technical Editor was present to discuss problems. It is perhaps significant that only about half a dozen queries were raised and most of those dealt with power and a.c. questions. Last year the position was very much different and the technical editor had hardly a spare minute during the busy times.

General Impressions.

ONE was left with the general impression that radio has at last reached some degree of stability. It is again coming to the pockets of those who cannot afford to pay out big sums for entertainment but this time it is reliable and, equally important, it is musical. A fair degree of realism has been achieved and the sets are sensitive.

The combination with the gramophone has been a happy one, and both means of entertainment are showing

See the "Majestic"
Hear the Colourful Tone
and you'll prefer "Majestic" too!



In face of the keenest competition the "Majestic" Radio has won through to a position of such pre-eminence that more than 3,000 people in New Zealand alone prefer it to any other Radio.

OBTAIN YOUR
"MAJESTIC" FROM
THE SENIOR HOUSE.

... and pay on easy terms—
whilst enjoying Majestic's colourful tone in your own home.

MODEL 90, £42/10/-.

KIRKCALDIE & STAINS LTD.
The Senior House :: LAMBTON QUAY